

**State EMS Advisory Board Meeting
Richmond Marriott West, Glen Allen, Virginia
Friday, May 15, 2009
1:00 PM**

| Members Present: | Members Absent: | Staff: | Others: |
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| Randy P. Abernathy | Jennie L. Collins (Excused) | Gary R. Brown | Karen Remley, MD., MBA, FAAP, State Health Commissioner |
| Rev. Coan Agee | Lori Moore-Merrill (Excused) | Scott Winston | Mark Levine, MD, MPH, Deputy Commissioner, EP&R |
| Byron F. Andrews, III | Carl F. Wentzel, III, M.D. | Frank Cheatham | Byron McRay, Richmond Ambulance |
| J. David Barrick | Douglas R. Young (Excused) | Karen Owens | Heidi Hooker, Old Dominion EMS Alliance |
| Edward B. Bish, Jr. | | Winnie Pennington | Michael Player, York County Fire & Life Safety/ Peninsulas EMS Council |
| Asher Brand, M.D. | | Jim Nogle | Tracey McLaurin, Lord Fairfax EMS Council |
| Jason D. Campbell | | Carol Morrow | David E. Cullen, Jr., Central Shenandoah, EMS Council |
| Gary A. Dalton | | Tim Perkins | Stephen Rea, Thomas Jefferson EMS Council |
| Kevin L. Dillard | | Beth Singer | Jeff Meyer, Peninsulas EMS Council |
| Bruce Edwards | | Greg Neiman | Scott Hudson, Lancaster County EMS / Peninsulas EMS Council |
| Carol Lee Fischer-Strickler | | Chad Blosser | Dan Norville, Norfolk Fire - Rescue |
| Robin L. Foster, M.D. | | David P. Edwards | Kent Weber, Tidewater EMS Council / Virginia Beach EMS |
| James A. Gray, Jr. | | Ken Crumpler | Jim Chandler, Tidewater EMS Council |
| L.V. Pokey Harris | | Michael D. Berg | Rob Logan, Western Virginia EMS Council |
| Linda G. Johnson | | Amanda Davis | Paul D. Hoppes, Communications Engineer |
| Cheryl L. Lawson, M.D. | | Wanda Street | Kenny Stuver, OCP - CICO |
| Ajai Malhotra, M.D. | | Irene Hamilton | Deborah T. Akers, Western Virginia EMS Council |
| Clarence Monday | | | Matt Tatum, Henry County |
| Larry A. Oliver | | | Elizabeth Enos, Southside Virginia EMS Crew |
| William E. Quarles, Jr. | | | Robert Oldham, VDH |
| Dee Dee Soyars | | | Karen Wagner, VAVRS |
| John Dale Wagoner | | | Dana Love, Center for EHS |
| Anthony D. Wilson | | | Dan Fermil, Chesapeake Fire Department |
| Allen Yee, M.D., FAAEM | | | Gary Samuels, Virginia Professional Firefighters / Henrico Fire |

Members Present:

Members Absent:

Staff:

Others:

Ed Rhodes,
VFCA/VAVRS/VAGEMSA/EMS Councils
Dreana Chandler, VAVRS
Billy Shelton, Virginia Department of Fire
Programs
Mac McCauley, Central Shenandoah EMS
Council
Kim Craig, Staunton-Augusta Rescue /
Central Shenandoah EMS Council
Connie Purvis, Blue Ridge EMS Council
Melinda Duncan, Northern Virginia EMS
Council
Mike Harmon, Chesterfield Fire & EMS
Wayne Peer, Rockingham County Fire &
Rescue

| Topic/Subject | Discussion | Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person |
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| Call to Order – Randy Abernathy | Randy Abernathy, the Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1PM | THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED WITH NO CHANGES. THE AGENDA WAS APPROVED WITH THE NOTED CHANGE IN ORDER. |
| Approval of Minutes | A motion was made and properly seconded to accept the minutes as presented from the February 13, 2009 meeting. | |
| Approval of Meeting Agenda | A motion was made and properly seconded to accept the proposed meeting agenda as presented with one change in the order. <ul style="list-style-type: none">The report from the State Health Commission, Dr. Remley, will come first on the agenda due to a conflicting meeting that Dr. Remley has to attend with the Governor.. | |
| State Health Commissioner – Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP | <u>H1N1 Flu Outbreak</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Remley said that Virginia did a good job in their response to the H1N1 Flu Outbreak. Virginia did well because they were well prepared for the disaster event.Dr. Remley credited the EMS and Emergency Medicine leaders work during the outbreak as a major contributing factor for helping Virginia to handle the virus outbreak in a positive manner.Dr. Remley cautioned the group that the virus is evolving and as they continue to learn more about the virus strategies will change.Dr. Remley said that jurisdictions should make sure that their infection control works, review their disaster plans and make sure that they are familiar with the protocol, as well as making sure they are trained on proper equipment usage in preparation for future virus outbreaks. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Remley said that they have been working with the Office of EMS and others in EMS, using a survey, to gather information on which EMS providers know how to use a N95 mask and who needs more training on treating patients with symptoms. • Dr. Remley said that currently no vaccination has been developed, but they anticipate having a vaccination in the future. She said that it has not yet been determined how the vaccine would be issued, if one is developed • Dr. Remley said one important lesson that they have learned early on is the need for good email list serves for various work groups throughout the state, i.e. infection control personnel, OMD's, etc. This will assure a quick and effective way of disseminating good clinical information quickly. Regions should expect to see testing of email list serves forthcoming. | |
| Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Preparedness & Response – Mark Levine, MD, MPH | <u>H1N1 Flu Outbreak</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Levine stated that they are now entering Phase 2 of the H1N1 virus outbreak, which is a planning stage. • In an effort to review Phase 1, and look at what worked and what did not work, an email has been established to collect information from people on what they have learned during Phase 1. The email address is: situnit@vdh.virginia.gov. The information collected will help with future planning. • Dr. Levine said a lot of effort will be put into improving communications. He said that 90 percent of what they need to improve on relates to information management. • Dr. Levine also encouraged the group to assure that their regions have local plans and that the appropriate individuals are familiar with the plans. Dr. Levine also encouraged the regions to stockpile supplies. | |
| OEMS H1N1 Virus Task Update – Karen Owens | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OEMS sent out two emails, the first being to Infection Control Officers and then one to the Agency Representative/Owner. The email included a survey to find out if agencies had respiratory protection plans, N95 Masks, and Fit Testing. • Ms. Owens reported that 239 responses have been received. • 130 Respondents have a respiratory protection plan; and 151 respondents have N95 Masks. • Of the 151 respondents who have N95 Masks, 66 respondents do Fit Testing. Of the 66 that do Fit Testing, 58 have done Fit Testing since 2008. Ms. Owens informed the Board that by OSHA Standards, Fit Testing has to be repeated every year. • 172 agencies do not have a Fit Testing program. • Due to the obvious gaps noted, OEMS has teamed up with Emergency Preparedness and Response and the regional councils to send representatives to Fit Test Train-the-Trainers. The individuals trained will in turn train an addition 10 people within their region. • This will ensure that there will be several individuals within each region who can provide Fit Testing training to EMS providers, as needed. • Ms. Owens also reported that they are working with the OEMS Training unit to develop | <p>Train the Trainers courses should begin next week; and they also hope that the EMSAT will go out. There will be a second EMSAT going out in July in conjunction with the Standard Infection Control Update.</p> <p>OEMS Emergency Operations staff is available to answer any questions.</p> |

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| | <p>an EMSAT on basic information regarding N95 masks; and they are working with the VDH Industrial Hygienist to provide information to define a respiratory protection plan and why it is needed, as well as basics about the need for N95 Masks.</p> | |
| <p>Chair Report – Randy Abernathy for Jennie Collins</p> | <p><u>Meeting of the EMS Advisory Board Officers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Officers of the Board met on March 23 at which time they discussed the future vision of the Board and its committees. • An Executive Committee agenda was created; and they also discussed the future Bylaws revisions. <p><u>Executive Committee Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Executive Committee meeting was held on April 13. • Agenda items included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The future vision of the Board. ○ System objectives. ○ Unification of the EMS Advisory Board, Regional Councils and EMS stakeholders. • Another topic of discussion was how to ensure that the EMS Advisory Board committees continue to work productively. • The Advisory Board motion form has been revised to indicate if the motion is from an individual or a committee. It will reference the EMS Plan section that it supports, if applicable; and include a committee minority opinion, if applicable. Committees can ask their EMS staff representative for help in determining the applicable section of the EMS Plan, if needed. <p><u>The State EMS Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The officers also discussed the State EMS Plan at the April 13 meeting. The Plan is going to be updated; and it was felt that this would be a good time for committees to review their mission and structure, as a help for the revision of the State EMS Plan. <p><u>EMS Representative to the Board of Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Committee created a Position Description for this appointment. A copy of the Position Description was included as Appendix B of the Quarterly Report. • The Chair entertained a motion to adopt the Position Description. A motion was made by Gary Dalton and seconded by Larry Oliver. The Chair then opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none, the Chair called for the vote. • State Code calls for this new position to be established by July 1, 2009. • Due to the timing, the Executive Committee recommended that the Board support the following plan for this first candidate in 2009. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They advertise the position, the Position Description, and accept application | <p>MOTION: THE EMS ADVISORY BOARD MOVES TO ADOPT THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH POSITION DESCRIPTION.</p> <p>YEAS = 24/ NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> |

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| | <p>packages, due by the close of business of June 12, 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Empower the Executive Committee to review and recommend three candidates, ranked in order of preference, and submit to the Governor for consideration. ○ The Executive Committee will have this as an agenda item at their June 16 meeting. ○ The Executive Committee will report to the Board on the submissions following this meeting. ○ At the August meeting, the Executive Committee will report to the Board on how the Position Description facilitated this process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Committee is asking that for this first position because of the time involved to empower the Executive Committee to process this application and to make a decision based on the Executive Committee's decision to forward those names to the Governor for consideration. • This recommendation was brought forth as a motion by Gary Dalton and seconded by Anthony Wilson. The Chair then opened the floor for discussion. • Asher Brand voiced concerns about empowering the Executive Committee to make this decision since this is a crucial position that will have a lot of sway over the EMS system in the future. He feels that the entire Advisory Board should be involved in this endeavor. Dr. Brand further stated that he feels if the Board does vote to empower the Executive Committee to make this decision then the members of the Executive Committee should be excluded from being recommended for this position. Dr. Brand opposes the motion. • Mr. Abernathy said that the Executive Committee did discuss and decide if a member of the Executive Committee was interested in the position that they would be reclude from the process. Mr. Abernathy explained further that this process would only be for the first appointment to the Board of Health because in the future, there would be enough time to include the entire EMS Advisory Board in the process. • Gary Brown told the Board that he has met with Matt Cobb regarding this issue and the process that the Executive Committee wanted to utilize. Mr. Brown said that Matt Cobb thought the process would be acceptable for this first appointment, especially because the committee would submit three names for consideration; which is a standard number. • The Board discussed other alternatives and ways to include the entire Board in this process. Dr. Yee asked about the possibility of a conference call. Mr. Brown said that his concern of a conference call is that it would need to be a public meeting. Dr. Levine concurred that it would have to be a public meeting. • Following a lengthy discussion the Chair called for the vote. The motion was rejected. The Chair said that they will come back with another process that considers the issues discussed. • Jason Campbell recommended that we continue with the same timeline and accept | <p>THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p>MOTION: THE EMS ADVISORY BOARD MOVES TO EMPOWER THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR THE EMS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH, SELECT THREE CANDIDATES, AND FORWARD THOSE NAMES TO THE GOVERNOR FOR CONSIDERATION.</p> <p>YEAS = 0; NAYS = 24; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION DID NOT CARRY.</p> |

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| | <p>applications by June 12. Those nominations would be reported in the Quarterly Report, and they could vote at the August meeting. Jason brought forth his recommendation as a motion. Linda Johnson seconded the motion.</p> <p><u>Meeting with the Committee Chairs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Committee requested a meeting with all the committee chairs. The meeting was held on Thursday, May 14. The committee chairs were requested to review Bylaws in relation to their committees. <p><u>Ad Hoc Committee to review the Bylaws</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennie Collins wants to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Bylaws. The Chair called for volunteers to serve on this committee The following people will serve on the Ad Hoc Committee: Bruce Edwards; Asher Brand; Carol Lee Strickler; Jason Campbell and Gary Dalton The Chair will be contacting the group with more guidelines. She anticipates that in the November meeting timeframe they might consider a draft of Bylaw changes be presented to the Board. | <p>MOTION: THE EMS ADVISORY BOARD WILL ACCEPT NOMINATIONS/APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEW SEAT ON THE BOARD OF HEALTH THROUGH JUNE 12. THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE EMS ADVISORY BOARD AND THE ENTIRE ADVISORY BOARD WILL SELECT THREE NAMES AT THE AUGUST EMS ADVISORY BOARD TO SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNOR. * BALLOTS SHOULD BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE ADVISORY BOARD AT THE AUGUST MEETING.</p> <p>YEAS = 24; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> |
| 1ST Vice Chair's Report – Randy Abernathy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Abernathy attended the Rural Health Summit in Abingdon, Virginia. The summit presented a lot of good information and presented an opportunity to recognize some of the unique situations around EMS systems in rural communities. | |
| 2nd Vice Chair's Report – Pokey Harris | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the last Advisory Board meeting, Ms. Harris was tasked with looking at the makeup of the committees of the Advisory Board. They want to review the goals, mission statements, composition, representation, procedures and processes for transitioning Chairs and members; and to make sure that the committees are making progress. They want to determine if they need to replace, add or restructure committees. Thursday night (May 14, 2009), the Executive Committee met with the committee chairs in an effort to begin that process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They discussed reviewing the State EMS Plan and utilizing the committees for | |

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| | <p>input into the plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committees were tasked with both assignments concurrently – ○ Looking at their committee structure, goals and mission; and also input into the State Plan review. ○ Committee Chairs and staff have a “homework assignment” as well as committee members, to get input on all of this information. They want to assure that the committees’ goals and objectives are in line with the State EMS Plan. ○ The committees have a July 31 deadline for submitting this information. <p><u>Committee Interest Forms-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Harris stated that several board members have inquired about serving on committees. She has asked Irene to send the Board the Committee Interest form via email. • Ms. Harris said also some members of the EMS community have expressed an interest in serving on committees; and she asked that anyone interested in serving on a committee to let her know. | <p>Irene will send out the Committee Interest form to the Board with instructions on where and how to return the form.</p> |

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| <p>Office of EMS Report – Gary Brown, Scott Winston and Staff</p> | <p><u>Final EMS Advisory Board Appointments-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Brown announced the final new appointments to the State EMS Advisory Board; Gary Dalton, welcomed back representing VAVRS, and the seat vacated by Karen Wagner; Dr. Allen Yee, representing the Medical Society of Virginia and the seat vacated by Dr. James Dudley; and Dr. Robin Foster, representing the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the seat vacated by Dr. Theresa Guins. <p><u>OEMS Personnel –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OEMS is recruiting for the Public Relations Assistant who will report to Beth Singer. Applicants have been interviewed and there is a top candidate. OEMS is also recruiting for the Biostatistician position that was vacated by Jodi Kuhn. <p><u>Budget –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 2009 General Assembly, there was a budget amendment to transfer the additional \$.25 that was approved for EMS and earmarked for EMS Training to the Virginia State Police. Another budget amendment restored \$1 million dollars back to EMS; so EMS will still have to transfer \$600,000 to the Virginia State Police. This will reduce the monies in the EMS Training Funds program by \$600,000. This will have a major impact on the training program. Under the previous reductions in the fall of 2008, EMS was directed to transfer \$503,757 to the Treasurer of Virginia from the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund grant program. There were three positions eliminated; and those funds also go back to the General Assembly. In addition, all interest on the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund interest bearing account must be transferred to the Treasurer of Virginia. EMS will face some challenges due to the budget shortfall. <p><u>PPCR Program-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After four years, OEMS has awarded a contract to Image Trend Inc. to replace their current PPCR program with a NEMSIS goal certified EMS information system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will provide both state data collection and field electronic care reporting. It is a 100 percent web based system. It will allow direct entry into the database. Agency leadership will have direct access to agency data. Performance features, includes ability to perform medical reviews, document QA performed and set benchmarks. It has computer based learning so agencies and providers can learn how to use the new state bridge as well as the field bridge. EMS has secured a statewide license for Image Trend Field Bridge so that Virginia licensed agencies will have access to the electronic software at no cost. | |
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- Agencies will have to secure the field laptop and the notebook to utilize the software if they choose; but it is not a requirement.
- Dr. Malhotra asked if the information could be sent in “real time” and Mr. Brown confirmed that it could be sent in real time.
- Mr. Brown encouraged the Board and audience to check the OEMS web site if they had specific questions; or to contact Paul Sharpe, Gary Brown or Scott Winston via email with their questions.

Department of Homeland Security Grant –

- Amanda Davis and other OEMS staff have worked to secure \$2,782,000 in grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase ToughBook computers. It is 100 percent funding for the ToughBook computers.
 - If you want additional features above what OEMS can fund, please call the office and talk to Amanda Davis. Additional features can be added at the expense of the agency.
 - The grant application deadline for the ToughBook computers is June 1, 2009. The application is available on the OEMS web site.
 - Grant applications must be submitted by the City or County and cannot come from an agency.

National EMS Week –

- May 17 – May 23 is National EMS Week. The theme this year is “A Proud Partner in Your Community.”
- The National EMS Memorial Bike Ride from May 16 – 22 is to raise awareness of the National EMS Memorial Service. Riders are riding from New York to Roanoke. Tim Perkins and Dr. George Lindbeck are both participating in the bike ride.
- National EMS Memorial Service will be May 23 in Roanoke Virginia will this year honor 91 providers from 26 states who lost their lives in the line of duty. Mr. Brown encouraged the Board and audience to attend the service. This is the last year that the service will be held in Virginia. Next year it will be moving to Colorado Springs next year. The service began in Virginia with the efforts of the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squad. Mr. Brown acknowledged Kevin Dillard who spearheaded the effort in Virginia the entire time.

National EMS for Children Day –

- Takes place during EMS Week. On the OEMS web site there is information regarding a National EMS for Children Day kit. There is also a tool kit link on the page for the ACEP EMS Week Guide that Beth Singer has sent to all agencies.

IT Executive Committee – Scott Winston

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Winston gave a brief history of the IT Executive Committee that was established approximately 5 years ago to help identify and prioritize IT projects within the office. • The committee is making a renewed effort to better identify their IT needs in an effort to better meet their IT needs over the next five years. They will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking at the purpose for the application, ○ Identifying the business problem, ○ Defining a project business objective that they will be working on as a group, • The committee is also looking at either updating or replacing the current Rescue Squad Assistance program grant application. <p><u>Rural EMS Summit –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Winston reported that the summit was made possible by federal FLEX grant funding that came to the state through the Health Department and the Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy. • The summit provided good information in regards to the delivery of EMS in rural communities. • The Office is working to develop a web page on the OEMS web site that will have a focus on rural EMS issues. • The group identified priority issues in rural health communities: Three of the priority issues identified were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1. Lack of good EMS agency leadership and management; ○ 2. Lack of involvement and accountability on the part of local governments for the planning and provision of emergency medical services; ○ 3. Recruitment and Retention. • The next step in the process will occur in October 2009 if funding is approved to continue to use federal FLEX Grant funding; to have a next step summit to develop some solutions and identify some strategic initiatives. <p><u>Recruitment and Retention Web Site-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a link on the OEMS to the new Recruitment and Retention web site. It can be accessed at www.vaemsjobs.com. • The site has a lot of search tools to allow an agency to post volunteer opportunities and career opportunities; allow the provider to identify places to volunteer; and allow the provider to post their resume on the web site. <p><u>On Line EMS Medical Director Course-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They now have the EMS Medical Director's course on line. Beginning next week there will be a link on the OEMS web page to access the site. The site can be accessed directly by using the web address: www.medicaldirectoronline.org. • Physicians who need to complete their training can use this course under the current | |
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| | <p>regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the new regulations come into effect, the on-line program will be a prerequisite prior to applying for endorsement as an EMS Medical Director. • There are three face-to-face Medical Directors Workshops scheduled this year, June 10 at the Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, August 10 at Fauquier Hospital in Warrenton; and November 12 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott in conjunction with the Virginia EMS Symposium. There is a link on the OEMS web site where physicians can register. | |
| Nominating Committee – Byron Andrews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee met via teleconference on April 28 to fill the vacancy of the Awards Committee and the Emergency Medical Services for Children. • The committee brought forth the nomination of Dr. Robin Foster for Chair of the Emergency Medical Services for Children committee and Anthony Wilson for the Awards Committee. The Chair opened the floor for nominations. Hearing none the Chair called for the vote. • Mr. Andrews also reported that the Jennie Collins asked that the Nominating Committee study the process for future elections of the Executive Committee and the Committee Chair positions nominations. The committee will be working to develop those processes and should have a report at the August Board meeting. | <p>MOTION: THE EMS ADVISORY BOARD MOVE TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATION OF DR. ROBIN FOSTER AS CHAIR OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN COMMITTEE.</p> <p>YEAS = 24; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p>MOTION: THE EMS ADVISORY BOARD MOVE TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATION OF ANTHONY WILSON AS CHAIR OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE.</p> <p>YEAS = 24; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> |
| Awards Selection Committee – Anthony Wilson | No report. | |
| Communications Committee – Pokey Harris | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Harris reported that the committee is continuing to promote the EMD and EMD accreditations. • They are looking at the EMS Interoperable Portable Radio project. The project is in a holding pattern because of funding. It seems that in April 2010 they will be able to apply for DHS funding. • They are currently looking at updating the Communications Directory. They are thinking | |

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| | <p>about coordinating with their sister agencies; and they are going to try to streamline it for all the agencies they serve collectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCIPS (Virginia Commonwealth Index for Public Safety) Project is the database they have been trying to put together to identify communications funding opportunities. Amanda Davis has been assisting Ms. Harris. They have realized that this is an enormous undertaking, and that there is a great need for communications funding. • State Plan – Coordination of State Plans. Everyone has a State Plan with the Communications community; and they want to work with other agencies that serve the same constituencies to align their plans to be stronger. • The Communications Committee is looking at aligning the committee and adding Ad Hoc Committees to address the current relevant issues more timely. <p><u>PSAP Accreditation</u> – Ken Crumpler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions were received from Nelson County and Culpeper 911 were reviewed by Ken and presented to the Communications Committee for approval. Pending the signature of Mr. Gary Brown they will be accredited PSAPS. | |
| CISM Committee – Dee Dee Soyars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee had a teleconference on April 24. Ms. Soyars referred the Board to Appendix H in the Quarterly Report which is a Position Paper on the future of the CISM program. This paper outlines the changes that the CISM committee would like to propose to the Board. Ms. Soyars also brought forth a motion from the committee. • The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Karen Owens clarified that this was the original motion brought forth at the February 13 Board meeting and it was tabled. After that meeting, the committee met with Jennie Collins and guided to look back at what the purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee. The original purpose was to look at the CISM program as a whole and not the methodologies. Ms. Owens explained that the position paper reflects the need to restructure the CISM program. Following the discussion, the Chair called for the vote. | <p>MOTION: THERE IS A DECISION OF THE STATE OF EMS ADVISORY BOARD THAT THE OFFICE OF EMS RESTRUCTURE ITS CURRENT CISM PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE AND INCORPORATE ADDITIONAL TEACHINGS AND METHODS OF COPING WITH EFFECTS OF CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS EXPOSURE. THE RESTRUCTION WILL ALLOW FOR PROGRAMS MODIFICATIONS BASED ON THE ONGOING RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CRISIS INTERVENTION METHODOLOGIES. THIS RESTRUCTION WILL ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAIN ALL RESPONDERS IN THE RECOGNITION OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO CRITICAL INCIDENTS AND WILL TAKE A</p> |

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| | | <p>BROADER FOCUS ON CRISIS INTERVENTION IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.</p> <p>COMMITTEE MINORITY OPINION: WHILE ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SUPPORTED THE SHIFT OF THE CISM PROGRAM TO A CRISIS INTERVENTION MODEL, THERE WAS ONE COMMITTEE MEMBER WHO BELIEVED THAT DEBRIEFINGS SHOULD NOT BE ONE OF THE METHODOLOGIES TAUGHT OR SUPPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF EMS CISM PROGRAM.</p> <p>VOTE: YEAS = 24; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> |
| EMS Emergency Management Committee - Bubby Bish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee met on April 2. • Mr. Bish announced that the VA1-DMAT celebrated their fifth anniversary. • A representative from the Virginia Army National Guard presented information on their team that is focused on weapons of mass destruction. • The committee is continuing to schedule Mass Casualty I and II classes, which includes Instructor classes. • The next meeting is July 30, 2009. | |
| EMS for Children – Robin Foster | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee met on April 9, 2009. • The Office of EMS has received notification that they were approved for a third year of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) EMSC State Partnership Grant. • This funding allowed the committee to offer a Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) Train-the-Trainer Course in Suffolk, Virginia in April. Eleven regions participated and completed the course. They agreed to teach at least two PEPP courses in their region over the next two years. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Critical Access Hospital assessment is being performed by OEMS staff to assess whether the hospitals have appropriate pediatric emergency equipment available and to encourage that key emergency staff maintain a reasonable level of pediatric expertise. • The EMS for Children program nationally are surveying hospitals in relation to key national pediatric performance measures, In Virginia, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) has agreed to help with the completion of these surveys. • The Child Abuse Mandatory Reporting law was put in effect March 31, 2009. The Department of Social Services (DSS) will keep statistics on how often EMS personnel utilize the hotline. • The next meeting is scheduled on July 9, 2009. | |
| EMS Workforce Development Committee – Chief James Gray | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee met on April 15. • The committee has been working the past months focusing on two areas of EMS 1) standards of excellence programs for EMS agencies and 2) a certification program for EMS leaders. • At the meeting they concluded that the committee would continue in its efforts to develop these two programs. These two objectives support the EMS State Plan and also support recommendations from the 2004 JLARC report. • Chief Gray also reported that they have several vacancies on the committee and he has received emails from individuals interested in serving on the committee. • Dana Love gave a presentation on the work that the Accreditation and Technical Assistance Team has done in regards to the Standards of Excellence program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Their goal is to create a non-mandatory, voluntary process to move EMS agencies from state regulation to industry accepted Best Practices. ○ On July 9, the committee plans to make a presentation to the Medical Direction Committee on equipment necessary to deliver the standard of care. ○ In August the committee will bring the Board information about the Tier 1 Program; and in November they will bring a full program implementation in form of a motion. ○ Gary Brown has given them an opportunity to talk to the stakeholders in November during the Symposium. • Byron Andrews asked if all Board members could get a copy of the presentation. Mr. Andrews also asked if the Board could see a synopsis of the program before they are presented with a motion to adopt the program. • The next committee meeting is scheduled on July 8. | <p>Dana Love said that he would send a copy of the presentation to the Office of EMS for distribution to the Board.</p> <p>The committee plans to keep the Board updated of all the steps of the planning process so that they will be well informed before the Board if presented with a motion to adopt the program.</p> |
| Finance, Legislation & Planning Committee – Randy Abernathy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Abernathy reported that the committee met earlier in the day. • The discussion centered on the State Plan and how to proceed with the State Plan revisions. • The State Plan will be sent out electronically in the next week, and they want to get feedback from EMS stakeholders in developing the plan. • The committee has asked the committee chairs to create a vision statement if they don't have one already. | Committee Chairs should let Mr. Abernathy know as soon as possible if they have any issues with the July 31 deadline. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee chairs were also asked to create a mission statement. Committees are being asked to look at their current mission statement and see if the reason and essence of why that committee exist and how it serves the EMS system. • Committees have been asked to submit up to four core objectives which is defined as a main thrust or action that will move the system towards accomplishing the vision and the mission. • The EMS Plan will guide how EMS moves forward in the next years. Committees Chairs have been encouraged to form work groups and have necessary meetings to compile this information. • The information is due back by July 31. • The information will come to the FLAP Committee and they will consolidate the information to come up with a first draft of the State Plan. The target is by August 2010 they will have a plan to submit to the Department of Health for approval. • They are providing a resource document page on the OEMS web site by next week that will serve as a library of information for committee about things that are going on nationally. • The FLAP Committee also brought forth a motion. This refers to Strategic Initiative 3.4 of the existing State EMS Plan. • The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Abernathy said that the Ad Hoc Committee should have a plan of action to present to the Board at the August meeting. • Following discussion, the Chair called for the vote. • The Chair appointed the following people to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee: Byron Andrews, Rob Logan, Mike Player, and Gary Dalton. Rob Logan will serve as Chair. | <p>MOTION: THE FLAP COMMITTEE MOVES TO CREATE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE FLAP COMMITTEE TO SURVEY EMS AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS BY CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF THE STATE BUDGET DEFICIT ON THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY PATIENT CARE.</p> <p>YEAS = 24; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> |
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| | | THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, |
| Finance Assistance Review Committee – Wayne Peer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee met on Thursday and discussed the upcoming grant cycle. Mr. Peer said that grant requests were down this cycle. • This cycle they have \$5.5 million dollars in requests and 111 agencies applying. They think it is because a lot of agencies can't come up with the matching funding. • They anticipate having \$3.6 million dollars available this cycle. • The committee will be sending out some surveys with the awards letters this cycle. They want to collect information on autopulses and the assisted lift cart; if agencies have them and are using them. The committee would like to get information that can substantiate the grant requests for those high dollar items. • Mr. Peer said that in the fall cycle they will be putting together a questionnaire for agencies requesting autopulses. • The grant scoring sheets will be piloted this fall. • The committee met last night to work on the mission statement. <p><u>ToughBook Grant-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Davis gave an update on the ToughBook grants. • Ms. Davis reported that to date they have received approximately 35 applications. • Ms. Davis explained that there are two options available on the OEMS web site. One is the basic option, which includes all the amenities and is covered 100 percent. The second option is an upgrade which will cost an additional \$250 per unit. • Ms. Davis was asked what would happen if a jurisdiction did not want to participate, but there were agencies within the jurisdiction that did want to participate. Ms. Davis said that each application would have to be signed by the City or County Administrator. • Ms. Davis stated that there is an eligibility list on the OEMS web site. It will show every agency available within a locality. Ms. Davis said that agencies will have to go through the locality where their squad is physically located. | |
| Medevac Committee – Bruce Edwards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Edwards said that they have their first Medevac Committee Strategic Plan. This plan will be posted on the OEMS web site. • Mr. Edwards noted that there is quite a bit of legislation on the national level regarding regulating helicopter EMS operations that is being monitored by the committee. • The next meeting is scheduled on August 6 at 10AM at the Richmond Marriott West. | |
| Medical Direction Committee – Asher Brand, MD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They reviewed the report addressing the HEMS Utilization from the Medevac Committee and it was well received. • Dr. Potter presented the committee with a project to facilitate triage to the most appropriate medical facility. The Medical Direction Committee endorsed the project and Dr. Potter will keep the committee updated on the project. • The composition of the committee was discussed. Dr. Brand has received input from numerous individuals; and some feel that the committee should not be limited to physicians only. The committee voted and decided that the composition should remain | |

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| | <p>limited to physicians only. Dr. Brand said that he voted against that decision and stated that he feels this issue will be revisited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Edwards commented on his past experience serving on the committee, as the only non-physician, and shared his thoughts as to why he felt it would be good to put a non-physician, seat on the committee; because it will give them a better idea of how things can be implemented from the field perspective. • There was an agenda item regarding agency autonomy as they move towards statewide guidelines and triage plans. There were concerns that these efforts in the long run might affect the ability of agencies and their providers to affect the system. This item was not discussed at that meeting; but will be an agenda item at another MDC meeting. • There was extensive discussion regarding the Scope of Practice documents, in particular the Drug Schedule. The proposed Scope of Practice document would prohibit EMT Intermediates from performing RSI. There were concerns raised and the issue was tabled pending the next MDC meeting. | |
| Professional Development Committee – Larry Oliver | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee met on Wednesday, April 8. • The committee brought forth two action items. • The first motion was unanimously approved by the Professional Development Committee. Following the reading of the motion, the Chair opened the floor for discussion. • Dr. Yee commented that every medical specialty has undergone a grandfather period and suggested that EMS should consider this option as well. • At the Chair's suggestion, Mr. Oliver gave some additional background information so the Board could take in consideration Dr. Yee's comments. • Bruce Edwards brought forth a motion to table the motion from the PDC because until the Medical Direction Committee has more time to work through their concerns. • The Chair opened the floor for discussion and hearing none called for the vote. • Mr. Oliver brought forth their second motion which was also unanimously approved by the Professional Development Committee. • The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Chad Blosser gave more detail information regarding the motion. • Jason Campbell asked that the Board gets more advance information regarding motions being presented at the Board meeting. Therefore, Mr. Campbell made a motion to table the motion brought forth by the Professional Development Committee. • The Chair opened the floor for discussion; and hearing none, called for the vote. • Jason Campbell inquired about information in the Quarterly Report regarding EMS Instructors and Coordinators who are falsifying records based upon the requirement that students must be affiliated with Virginia licensed EMS agencies at the time that they become certified in order for the contract to be eligible to receive payment for that student. Mr. Campbell asked if someone from the Education Division could provide some background regarding the requirement. | <p>MOTION: VIRGINIA HAS A PROVEN EMT INTERMEDIATE TO PARAMEDIC BRIDGE PROGRAM. PDC ENDORSES THIS COURSE AS THE OFFICIAL WAY TO TRANSITION IN THE FUTURE AND NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSED NREMT TRANSITION.</p> <p>MOTION: TABLE THE MOTION BROUGHT FORTH BY THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN REGARDS TO THE INTERMEDIATE TO PARAMEDIC BRIDGE PROGRAM UNTIL IT CAN BE WORKED OUT FURTHER IN THE MEDICAL DIRECTION COMMITTEE.</p> <p>YEAS = 24; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad Blosser explained that when the ALS Training Funds program was started agency affiliation was required in order for instructors to be eligible for reimbursement. Last year when they merged the two programs together they used the same guidelines and applied them to the BLS level. • Jason voiced his disagreement with this policy. He feels that it is a road block for agencies recruiting new members. He is concerned that some instructors might find themselves teaching a course to unaffiliated students and not get any payment. • Mr. Blosser explained that this is incorrect assumption. The pay for instructors has increased and instructors are paid the first up front monies based on enrollment numbers and the second payment is based on enrollment outcomes. The up front monies is about \$78 less than what instructors were making last year for the entire program. • Mr. Campbell asked that this be referred to the committee and ask the committee to consider removing the language from the contract or make some adjustments. • Gary Brown said that this action has already been approved by the Office of the Attorney General and no further action is needed. • Dee Dee Soyars said she feels that it is a disservice not go give CAT 1 credits to providers who attend conferences outside of Virginia. Currently, they are only allowed to CAT 2 credits. Mr. Blosser said that Tom Nevetral in the Office of EMS is the point person for that question. | <p>MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE ENTIRE BATCH OF TPAM REVISIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF T-145 WHICH WAS WITHDRAWN.</p> <p>MOTION: TO TABLE THE MOTION BROUGHT FORTH BY THE PDC IN REGARDS TO THE TPAM REVISIONS UNTIL THE BOARD CAN GET MORE INFORMATION.</p> <p>YEAS = 24; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> |
| Regulation and Policy Committee - Mike Berg | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Durable Do Not Resuscitate Regulations(12 VAC5-66) has been approved by the Attorney General's Office. It is now in the Department of Planning and Budget waiting for their review. It will then move on to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and then the Governor's office for signatures. • The regulations Governing Emergency Medical Services (12VAC5-31) is still in the Attorney General's Office for review. That too will need to go through the same policy. After that is done the Public Hearings will be scheduled. • The Office of EMS has been holding informational sessions for interested entities. They are getting good feedback from the sessions. They have held four and seven more are scheduled through July 11. | |
| Transportation Committee – David Barrick | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transportation Committee met on April 20 at the VAVRS Headquarters in Oilville. • They reviewed 26 grants to submit back to the Financial Assistance Review Committee. • They have also continued to work with DGS to develop a Best Practices for the purchase of ambulances. • The next meeting is scheduled on July 27 at 1PM in Oilville. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike Berg informed the Board about an issue with grant reviews. Some applicants have indicated on their grant applications that their vehicles are unsafe. When this happens, OEMS is obligated to pull the vehicle permits. In one case, this resulted in an agency getting very upset. OEMS did reissue the permit for the vehicle once they received information from the mechanic that the vehicle was road worthy. | |
| Trauma System Oversight & Management Committee – Ajai Malhotra, MD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee met on March 5. The Medevac Utilization Review made a good presentation; and the committee appreciates the education efforts they are putting into the appropriateness of helicopter transfer. Some individual trauma centers were concerned with their methodology in trying to look at what happens to the patient if they would be able to protect patient confidentiality. They have had two requests, one from the Medical Direction Committee and one from the Regional Councils to have seats on the committee. They have made a request of the Chair of the Advisory Board to allow the committee to have two additional members. They are required to review Trauma Triage guidelines and the new CDC guidelines have come out. They hope to start adopting them but because of the discussions, the committee has decided to develop a draft that will be circulated to the Medical Direction Committee and councils for comment before they adopt the guidelines. In the near term the committee is looking at the accuracy of field triage and also interhospital transfer issues, considering delays and appropriateness of transfers. In the interim, they want to start looking at more outcomes, what works and what doesn't work. In the longer term they wish to proceed with the American College of Surgeons state evaluation of the entire trauma system. Dr. Brand commended the Trauma Committee on wanting to include representation from the Medical Direction Committee and Regional Councils. He said he would like to see more cooperation in the future between committees so that important documents such as Trauma Triage come out of more than one committee and enter into a consensus must be forged before they are put forth. The Chair thanked Dr. Brand for the comment and said that this is one of the things they are looking for as they work on the Strategic Plan is to identify those issues. | |
| Regional EMS Council Executive Directors – David Cullen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directors Group met on Thursday. They held a Leadership Retreat in Lynchburg in March. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They came up with some contract revisions and recommendations, some of which have been put into place for the contract that just came out. They also worked on Council Board orientation materials. They led the opposition during the General Assembly Session against proposed budget cuts to the EMS budget; and they were successful in restoring a lot of the money that would have harmed the system. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will have members of each Regional Council attend the Train-the-Trainer for the N95 Masks; and they will be training people within their regions. • Almost all regions are now announcing and accepting registrations for test sites on one web page; they have two more that are actively working on wrapping it up and they will have a “one stop shopping” for everyone. • All regions have participated in informing and assisting the local governments in applying for the ToughBook grants. • The Directors Group met earlier in the day, after the FLAP Committee meeting, and have agreed to assist by volunteering Rob Logan to Chair, in the Needs Assessment. | |
| PUBLIC COMMENT | None. | |
| UNFINISHED BUSINESS | <u>PAT Committee</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byron Andrews asked about the status of the PAT Committee recommendations. • Gary Brown said that the recommendations that came out of the Pat Committee should be considered while revising the State EMS Plan. | Gary Critzer was not at the meeting. Tim Perkins will coordinate with Gary Critzer on setting up a meeting of the PAT committee. |
| NEW BUSINESS | <u>Meeting Date Change</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Edwards asked if we could put on the agenda for next meeting, to look at the possibility of realigning the Board and Committee meetings from Thursday and Friday until Wednesday and Thursday. <u>PAT Committee</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cheryl Lawson asked if the PAT recommendations ever go to the Board of Health; and if they did what is the status. <u>Heart Lung Act</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byron Andrews would like for either FLAP or the EMS Advisory Board to consider the inclusion of EMS personnel in the Heart Lung Act. <u>Freightliner Ambulances</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byron also asked if anyone has experience with the 2008/2009 Freightliner Ambulances with regeneration systems shutting down on calls. They have had it happened twice; Fairfax County has had it; and also Howard County Maryland. He asked if the Transportation Committee should be taking a look at that issue. Byron said that he is also going to bring it to the IOC and the Emergency Mechanics group. <u>EMS/Fire Symposium in Bristol</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pokey Harris announced that on May 30-31 they will be hosting an EMS/Fire Symposium in Bristol. They will also have a regional memorial service on May 29. Please visit the Southwest Virginia EMS website to register. • Mr. Abernathy announced that Jennie Collins plans to revise the EMS Advisory Board Agenda. It will be modified to improve some efficiency as to how the meetings are conducted. | <p>Gary Brown and Bruce Edwards both agreed to check on that but don’t think they ever went to the Board of Health.</p> <p>They will try to get information to the Board members regarding the status of the PAT recommendations.</p> <p>Gary Brown asked Byron to give him some specific questions regarding the issue; and Gary said he can get it to the National Association of the State EMS Officials.</p> |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 PM. | |

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